THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No reports suggesting the nexus between criminal mafia and the naxal groups have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Available reports indicate that the naxal groups have been raising funds mainly through extortion, ransom and levy/cess on sale/ movement of forest produce and other commodities.

(d) and (e) The Andhra Pradesh Government has entered into peace talks with the CPML-PWG and other naxal outfits. The first round of talks was held at hyderabad from October 15 to 18, 2004. Though the naxal outfits have announced unilateral withdrawal from the peace talks on 17.1.2005, the State Government has expressed its commitment to continue talks while taking necessary steps to maintain law and order in the State.

Revision in natural calamities assistance norms

*30. SHRI T.T.V DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have revised the Natural Calamities Assistance norms based on the report of Expert Committee;

(b) if so, what are the major changes suggested;

(c) whether norms have been fixed for declaring a Natural Calamity as National Disaster; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Assistance to the people affected by natural calamities is based on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission for the period 1st April, 2000 to 31st March, 2005. In pursuance of the Eleventh Finance Commission, Ministry of Finance, Department Of Expenditure had notified the two schemes, viz., Scheme for constitution and administration of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). As required in these schemes, the Ministry of Home Affairs have laid down the norms of assistance for relief based on the recommendations of the Expert Committees.

(b) The major changes suggested in the norms include —

(i) Gratuitous relief for families in dire need of immediate assistance @ Rs. 20/- per adult and Rs. 10/- per child per day.

(ii) Agricultural input subsidy @ Rs. 1000/- per hectare to a limit of 2 hectares to farmers other than small and marginal farmers in case of severe natural calamity occuring second consecutive year (or subsequent year).

(iii) Assistance to Sericulture farmers @ Rs. 2000/- per hectare ,for muga and Rs. 1500/- per hectare for Eri and mulberry.

(iv) Providing relief employment to one person from every willing rural household in the affected areas.

(v) Full cost of draught/milch animals used for haulage, as per the rates prescribed under appropriate schemes of Ministry of Rural Development.

(vi) Enhancement of assistance for providing feed and fodder to animals from Rs. 12/- per day to Rs. 18/- per day for large animals and from Rs. 6/- to Rs. 9/- per day to small animals.

(vii) Meeting additional expenditure on transportation to neutralize calamity related price rise.

(viii) Expenditure on training of specialist multi disciplinary groups/ teams of the State personnel drawn from different cadres/ services.

(ix) Expenditure upto 10% of annual CRF allocation for purchase of essential search, rescue, evacuation and communication equipment.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The existing Schemes for financing the Relief Expenditure, which are based on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, *inter alia,* provide for setting up of Committee of Experts and representatives of States, only to review the list of items of expenditure, which alone will be chargeable to the Funds. However, the Schemes provide for assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), in cases of calamity of severe nature, which is assessed on a case by case basis, by taking into account *inter alia,* the intensity and

magnitude of calamity, level of relief assistance required and capacity of the State to tackle the problem.

High potential of wind energy in Rajasthan

*31. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that desert region of Rajasthan, especially Jaisalmer is endowed with high quantum of wind energy;

(b) whether any foreign firm is engaged in harvesting wind energy in the region;

(c) if so, the details thereof, including the Government's stake in such firms;

(d) whether any feasibility study has been undertaken by Government to set up wind mills indigenously; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The desert areas in Rajasthan, especially Jaisalmer, have been found to be suitable for harnessing wind energy potential for electricity generation. A total wind pwoer potential of 910 MW has been estimated in Rajasthan. Based on detailed wind maps and master pains prepared for the Jaisalmer area a gross installable capacity of about 600 MW has been estimated. Wind power installed capacity of 260 MW has been set up in the state upto December, 2004, out of which 244 MW is in Jaisalmer district itself.

(b) and (c) There is no foreign firm engaged in harvesting/harnessing wind energy in the region. However, wind turbines are being manufactured and set up by two private firms, one of which is having foreign collaboration with a company in Europe. There is no Government stake in these firms.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Wind resource assessments have been carried out at 36 locations in Rajasthan. Based on these, six potential sites have been identified in the state, namely Devgarh (district Chittorgarh), harshnath (district Sikar), Jaisalmer, (district Jaisalmer), Mohangarh (district